

It is necessary to the conduct of government, and our doctrine, preached over and over again, is that it is as much a patriotic duty to pay all just taxes assessed against a citizen as it is to discharge any duty of citizenship. Only recently we came down as hard as parliamentary language will allow upon delinquents in Richmond, who go on from year to year enjoying the privileges and benefits of government without paying their share of the cost. The State has the right to impose taxes; it is the duty of every citizen to pay taxes, and, as a rule, the benefits of government which every citizen receives are in the nature of full compensation to him for the taxes he pays. But we insist upon these fundamentals: when the State undertakes to assess taxes against its citizens and compel them to pay the same as assessed, it then becomes the bounden duty of the State to employ every means at hand to make the assessment fair and equitable, so that the burden of taxation shall fall upon each and every citizen according to his ability to pay. Our protest is not against taxation. Of course not. It is against double taxation and unjust taxation in all its forms; against any system which discriminates against some and in favor of others. The system should be so adjusted as to make the burden and benefits fall equitably upon all.

The Clowes investigation case has been concluded and the report of the committee will probably be made to the Senate to-day. It is said that counsel for both Clowes and Dr. Foster have expressed a desire that the investigation be made public. It should be. Entirely too much mystery and secrecy has surrounded this case from the beginning. The investigation was decided upon and begun before the public was even notified of the charges which it was proposed to investigate. The proceedings of the committee have been behind closed doors. Investigations of this character seldom if ever accomplish any other purpose than to increase the suspicion of the public. The committee made a serious mistake in not conducting this investigation in the open. That mistake can be corrected in part by making the evidence in the case public. It should be done.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

We are privately informed that during the investigations, statements were made involving innocent persons, and that the publication of such statements would have been unfair to them, and would have compelled them to make disagreeable explanations through the public print. This is only hearsay, but we give it for what it is worth.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature prohibiting even the advocacy of suggestions that persons suffering from an incurable mental or physical ailment be put to death. The measure provides that "Whoever by word or mouth or by written or printed circulars, message, letters, documents, pamphlets, newspapers, or magazine articles, or publication of any kind, made, issued, or circulated by him or his authority, advocates or teaches the duty, necessity, or propriety of putting to death by legal sanction or otherwise, persons afflicted with an incurable mental or physical disease, because of their said condition, is guilty of a felony."

Now, Dr. Osier, will you be good? It is a public misfortune that Dr. S. C. Mitchell has retired from the School Board. He is a scholar, a teacher, an all-round citizen and consecrated mind and heart to the cause of popular education. He retires from the School Board simply because the demands upon him in other directions are so great that he had to give up something. It is certainly from no loss or lack of interest in the public schools of Richmond. It will be a difficult task to fill Dr. Mitchell's place. There are few men so well qualified. But the Council should endeavor to get the best man available.

The banking-house of Kuhn, Loeb and Company has taken a laudable step in retiring that all partners in the firm shall retire from the directorates of the various railroads with which they are connected. The purpose of this move is both to concentrate the firm's entire energy on its real business, banking and to do away with the diversity of interest that arises when the roads appear before the banks as borrowers. Kuhn, Loeb and Company have set a good example in this respect, which other similar firms can now scarcely avoid following.

The control of Big Stone Gap Post has passed to the Wise Printing Company and hereafter will be under the editorial conduct of Mr. Gilbert N. Knight. Big Stone Gap is one of the most prosperous towns in the Southwest and the Post is an institution of the community. We hope that it will continue to prosper under Editor Knight's management. With wise publishers and a wise editor, its career should be assured.

A Wisconsin man, on the point of being as dead, suddenly came to and jumped out of the coffin. His friends, we understand, are now trying to explain it all away by saying that they mistook him for Ex-Governor Odell.

It is to be noted that presidential booms, like all tender nursery sprigs, are kept under glass during the cold months. The discovery of vice in New York's vice squad may merely demonstrate how evil communications corrupt good manners.

The coal situation offered at least as worthy a cause for pacific presidential intervention as that Morocco mix-up. But nearly everyone agrees that a lock canal would be better than no canal at all.

We don't seem to hear so much of Senator Patterson as we once did. Meanwhile, Henry H. Rogers hasn't answered yet.

It takes a cold blast to warn the coal man's heart.

Insurance will look better after a bath and shave.

There is a bad revolt on at Yemen. Localize it in your boy's geography.

Next it may be Mr. Peabody's turn to skidoo.

Rank Question.

"Seems odd, doesn't it, about so many of these international matches?"

"What's odd about them?"

"That titled marriages should turn out such rank failures."—Baltimore American.

Disappointing.

"Has he said anything significant yet of his intentions?"

"No, ma, he's the most insignificant man I ever knew."—Houston Post.

them, but Dewey settled the question in short order. The Philippines were not responsible; neither was Dewey. It could not be helped. Some nations acquire outside possessions and some have outside possessions thrust upon them. It was even so with us and the Philippines. The founding was not exactly left on our doorstep, but it was thrust upon us, and we accepted and adopted it. It is our founding, and whether we like it or find it profitable or no, we cannot give it away or sell it. It is our duty to nourish and protect it and help it to grow and develop in character. It is more than a responsibility. We sometimes think it is a divine mission.

The Clowes investigation case has been concluded and the report of the committee will probably be made to the Senate to-day. It is said that counsel for both Clowes and Dr. Foster have expressed a desire that the investigation be made public. It should be. Entirely too much mystery and secrecy has surrounded this case from the beginning. The investigation was decided upon and begun before the public was even notified of the charges which it was proposed to investigate. The proceedings of the committee have been behind closed doors. Investigations of this character seldom if ever accomplish any other purpose than to increase the suspicion of the public. The committee made a serious mistake in not conducting this investigation in the open. That mistake can be corrected in part by making the evidence in the case public. It should be done.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

We are privately informed that during the investigations, statements were made involving innocent persons, and that the publication of such statements would have been unfair to them, and would have compelled them to make disagreeable explanations through the public print. This is only hearsay, but we give it for what it is worth.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature prohibiting even the advocacy of suggestions that persons suffering from an incurable mental or physical ailment be put to death. The measure provides that "Whoever by word or mouth or by written or printed circulars, message, letters, documents, pamphlets, newspapers, or magazine articles, or publication of any kind, made, issued, or circulated by him or his authority, advocates or teaches the duty, necessity, or propriety of putting to death by legal sanction or otherwise, persons afflicted with an incurable mental or physical disease, because of their said condition, is guilty of a felony."

Now, Dr. Osier, will you be good? It is a public misfortune that Dr. S. C. Mitchell has retired from the School Board. He is a scholar, a teacher, an all-round citizen and consecrated mind and heart to the cause of popular education. He retires from the School Board simply because the demands upon him in other directions are so great that he had to give up something. It is certainly from no loss or lack of interest in the public schools of Richmond. It will be a difficult task to fill Dr. Mitchell's place. There are few men so well qualified. But the Council should endeavor to get the best man available.

The banking-house of Kuhn, Loeb and Company has taken a laudable step in retiring that all partners in the firm shall retire from the directorates of the various railroads with which they are connected. The purpose of this move is both to concentrate the firm's entire energy on its real business, banking and to do away with the diversity of interest that arises when the roads appear before the banks as borrowers. K